

News Release



Controller of the State of California - Kathleen Connell

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CONTROLLER SPEEDS EMERGENCY FUNDS TO TRIAL COURTS

***Counties receive appropriation less than 24 hours after
legislation is signed***

SACRAMENTO, March 5 -- County trial court employees, fearful at the prospect of lay-offs that could have taken place as early as this Friday in some areas, can have peace of mind because the money is now in the counties' bank accounts. Reiterating her personal concern that employees be paid expeditiously for the work they do, State Controller Kathleen Connell this morning delivered on her commitment to expedite appropriations to counties. Because of steps ordered by Connell to speed the process, less than 24 hours after the Governor signed emergency legislation, courts have the funding to pay employee salaries and keep their doors open.

"It has always been my position that employees should not suffer because of politics. They work hard and should be paid for their labor," said State Controller Connell. "Many Californians live paycheck to paycheck, and some court employees had expressed concern to us about whether they'd be able to pay their families' bills. The normal turnaround time for payments such as these would be 7-10 days, so I am very proud that our team in the State Controller's Office was able to rush these payments out in less than 24 hours. We may have set a record!"

Connell noted that trial court appropriations are normally paid on a quarterly basis, 25 days after the close of the quarter, based on a claim schedule from the Administrative Office of the Courts specifying the amount the Controller's office is to pay each county. However, court funding for the first and second quarters of the state's fiscal year was in arrears due to the lack of an appropriation. To make up for the lack of timely funding, some counties say they have borrowed or shifted funds from other areas of their budget. Some of the smaller counties appeared to be the most at risk. Modoc County, for example, had indicated that it would be forced to begin laying people off this Friday if payment was not received by then.

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